

AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

Closed G_2 -structures on non-solvable Lie groups

This is a pre print version of the following article:

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1687784> since 2019-08-26T10:28:40Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1007/s13163-019-00296-0

Terms of use:

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

CLOSED G_2 -STRUCTURES ON NON-SOLVABLE LIE GROUPS

ANNA FINO AND ALBERTO RAFFERO

ABSTRACT. We investigate the existence of left-invariant closed G_2 -structures on seven-dimensional non-solvable Lie groups, providing the first examples of this type. When the Lie algebra has trivial Levi decomposition, we show that such a structure exists only when the semisimple part is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and the radical is unimodular and centerless. Moreover, we classify unimodular Lie algebras with non-trivial Levi decomposition admitting closed G_2 -structures.

1. INTRODUCTION

A G_2 -structure on a seven-dimensional smooth manifold M is a G_2 -reduction of the structure group of its frame bundle. It is well-known that such a reduction exists if and only if M is orientable and spin, and that it is characterized by the existence of a 3-form φ on M satisfying a certain nondegeneracy condition. This 3-form gives rise to a Riemannian metric g_φ with volume form dV_φ via the identity

$$g_\varphi(X, Y) dV_\varphi = \frac{1}{6} \iota_X \varphi \wedge \iota_Y \varphi \wedge \varphi,$$

for any pair of vector fields X, Y on M .

A G_2 -structure φ is said to be *closed* if the defining 3-form satisfies the equation $d\varphi = 0$, while it is called *co-closed* if $d *_\varphi \varphi = 0$, $*_\varphi$ being the Hodge operator defined by g_φ and dV_φ . When both of these conditions hold, the intrinsic torsion of the G_2 -structure vanishes identically, the Riemannian metric g_φ is Ricci-flat, and $\text{Hol}(g_\varphi) \subseteq G_2$ (cf. [3, 12]).

Differently from the co-closed case, where the existence of co-closed G_2 -structures on every seven-dimensional spin manifold was proved in [8], general results on the existence of closed G_2 -structures on compact 7-manifolds are still not known.

The first example of compact manifold endowed with a closed G_2 -structure was constructed by Fernández [9], and it consists of the compact quotient of a simply connected nilpotent Lie group by a lattice, namely a co-compact discrete subgroup. The classification of nilpotent Lie algebras admitting closed G_2 -structures was achieved by Conti and Fernández [6]. As the simply connected nilpotent Lie group corresponding to each one of them admits a lattice, their result provides additional locally homogeneous compact examples.

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 53C10, 53C30.

Key words and phrases. closed G_2 -structure, non-solvable Lie group, Levi decomposition.

The authors were supported by GNSAGA of INdAM.

In the solvable non-nilpotent case, the first compact example was described in [10], while a classification result for almost abelian Lie algebras was obtained by Freibert [14]. Further solvable examples satisfying a distinguished curvature property are discussed in [3, 20].

Complete closed G_2 -structures which are invariant under the cohomogeneity one action of a compact simple Lie group are exhibited in [5]. Recently, Podestà and the second named author proved that there are no compact homogeneous spaces endowed with an invariant closed (non-flat) G_2 -structure [26].

Remarkably, up to now nothing is known about the existence of closed G_2 -structures on seven-dimensional non-solvable Lie algebras. The aim of the present work is to investigate whether examples of this type occur.

As almost Hermitian geometry and G_2 -geometry correspond to the geometry of 1-fold and 2-fold vector cross products, respectively (cf. [15]), closed G_2 -structures may be regarded as the seven-dimensional analogue of almost Kähler structures on even-dimensional manifolds. Consequently, it is natural to ask whether known restrictions on the existence of symplectic forms on Lie algebras are valid for closed G_2 -structures, too.

In contrast to the results on symplectic Lie algebras [4, 21], we show that there exist non-solvable unimodular Lie algebras admitting closed G_2 -structures. The unimodular case is of foremost interest when one is looking for compact examples, since being unimodular is a necessary condition for the existence of lattices [23].

Before stating our main result, we fix some notations used throughout the paper. Given a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of dimension n , we write its structure equations with respect to a basis of 1-forms $\{e^1, \dots, e^n\}$ by specifying the n -tuple (de^1, \dots, de^n) , d being the Chevalley-Eilenberg differential of \mathfrak{g} . Moreover, we use the shorthand $e^{ijk\dots}$ to denote the wedge product $e^i \wedge e^j \wedge e^k \wedge \dots$.

Main Theorem. *Up to isomorphism, the only seven-dimensional, non-solvable unimodular Lie algebras admitting a closed G_2 -structure are the following:*

$$\begin{aligned} &(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, 0, -e^{45}, \tfrac{1}{2}e^{46} - e^{47}, \tfrac{1}{2}e^{47}); \\ &(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, 0, -e^{45}, -\mu e^{46}, (1 + \mu)e^{47}), \quad -1 < \mu \leq -\tfrac{1}{2}; \\ &(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, 0, -\mu e^{45}, \tfrac{\mu}{2}e^{46} - e^{47}, e^{46} + \tfrac{\mu}{2}e^{47}), \quad \mu > 0; \\ &(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25} - e^{47}, e^{15} - e^{34} - e^{57}, 2e^{67}, 0). \end{aligned}$$

In the above list, all of the Lie algebras but the last one have a trivial Levi decomposition of the form $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, where the semisimple part is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$, and the radical \mathfrak{r} is centerless.

The proof of the main theorem is made up by various results, which are stated and proved separately in order to make the presentation more clear and to emphasize the peculiarities of each case under consideration. In section §3, we summarize all possible seven-dimensional non-solvable Lie algebras up to isomorphism, distinguishing between those with non-trivial and trivial Levi decomposition. Then, we deal with the various possibilities in sections §4 and §5. The proof of the theorem follows combining lemmas 4.2, 4.5, and propositions 4.7, 4.8, 4.10, 5.1 and 5.2.

In addition to this result, in section §4 we also show that non-unimodular Lie algebras with trivial Levi decomposition cannot admit closed G_2 -structures.

Having obtained the first examples of non-solvable Lie algebras admitting closed G_2 -structures, it would be interesting to study the behaviour of the Laplacian G_2 -flow [3, 22] in this setting, in order to describe similarities and differences with the solvable case [11, 13, 19, 20]. We plan to do this in a subsequent work.

The computations in the proofs of propositions 4.7, 4.8, 4.10, 5.1, 5.2 have been done with the aid of the software Maple 18 and its package *diffforms*.

2. CLOSED G_2 -STRUCTURES ON LIE ALGEBRAS

Let \mathfrak{g} be a seven-dimensional real Lie algebra. Every 3-form $\phi \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ on \mathfrak{g} gives rise to a symmetric bilinear map

$$b_\phi : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \Lambda^7(\mathfrak{g}^*), \quad (v, w) \mapsto \frac{1}{6} \iota_v \phi \wedge \iota_w \phi \wedge \phi.$$

By [17], the $\mathrm{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$ -orbit of ϕ is open in $\Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ if and only if $\det(b_\phi)^{\frac{1}{9}} \in \Lambda^7(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ is nonzero. When this happens, ϕ is said to be *stable*. Using this notion, it is possible to give the following definition (cf. [7, 17]).

Definition 2.1. A G_2 -structure on \mathfrak{g} is a stable 3-form $\varphi \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ for which the bilinear map $g_\varphi : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$g_\varphi := \det(b_\varphi)^{-\frac{1}{9}} b_\varphi,$$

is positive definite. The volume form induced by φ is $dV_\varphi = \det(b_\varphi)^{\frac{1}{9}}$.

A G_2 -structure φ on \mathfrak{g} is called *closed* if $d\varphi = 0$, where d denotes the Chevalley-Eilenberg differential of \mathfrak{g} . Clearly, left multiplication allows to extend any closed G_2 -structure φ on a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} to a left-invariant closed G_2 -structure on every corresponding Lie group. Conversely, any left-invariant closed G_2 -structure φ on a Lie group G is determined by the closed G_2 -structure φ_{1_G} on $T_{1_G} G \cong \mathfrak{g}$.

In the next lemma, we summarize some obstructions to the existence of closed G_2 -structures on a Lie algebra. The proof is an immediate consequence of the properties of the defining 3-form.

Lemma 2.2. *A seven-dimensional oriented real Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} does not admit any closed G_2 -structure if for every closed 3-form $\phi \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ one of the following conditions hold for the map $b_\phi : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \Lambda^7(\mathfrak{g}^*) \cong \mathbb{R}$:*

- i) *there exists $v \in \mathfrak{g} \setminus \{0\}$ such that $b_\phi(v, v) = 0$;*
- ii) *there exist $v, w \in \mathfrak{g} \setminus \{0\}$ such that $b_\phi(v, v) b_\phi(w, w) \leq 0$.*

This result does not depend on the choice of the orientation.

Further obstructions can be obtained exploiting known non-existence results for symplectic forms on even-dimensional Lie algebras (e.g. [4, 21]) and the following.

Proposition 2.3 ([6]). *Assume that \mathfrak{g} has non-trivial center and that there exists a closed G_2 -structure φ on it. If $\pi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is a Lie algebra epimorphism with kernel contained in the center, and $\dim(\mathfrak{h}) = 6$, then \mathfrak{h} admits a symplectic form given by $\iota_\xi \varphi$, where $\langle \xi \rangle = \ker(\pi)$.*

3. NON-SOLVABLE SEVEN-DIMENSIONAL LIE ALGEBRAS

Consider a seven-dimensional real Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and denote by \mathfrak{r} its radical, i.e., its maximal solvable ideal. When \mathfrak{g} is neither semisimple nor solvable, it is well-known that there exists a semisimple subalgebra $\mathfrak{s} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$ such that \mathfrak{g} is a semidirect product

$$(3.1) \quad \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus_{\rho} \mathfrak{r},$$

for a suitable homomorphism $\rho : \mathfrak{s} \rightarrow \text{Der}(\mathfrak{r})$ (see e.g. [18, Thm. B.2]). The decomposition (3.1) is called *Levi decomposition* of \mathfrak{g} . If ρ is the zero map, \mathfrak{g} reduces to the product algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, and the Levi decomposition is said to be *trivial*.

By [27], there are seven non-isomorphic irreducible Lie algebras of dimension seven with non-trivial Levi decomposition. We recall their structure equations with respect to a basis $\{e^1, \dots, e^7\}$ of their dual algebra in Table 1 (cf. [27, Table II]).

| \mathfrak{g} | $(de^1, de^2, de^3, de^4, de^5, de^6, de^7)$ |
|----------------|--|
| $L_{7,1}$ | $(-e^{23}, e^{13}, -e^{12}, -e^{26} + e^{35} - e^{47}, e^{16} - e^{34} - e^{57}, -e^{15} + e^{24} - e^{67}, 0)$ |
| $L_{7,2}$ | $(-e^{23}, e^{13}, -e^{12}, \frac{1}{2}e^{17} + \frac{1}{2}e^{25} + \frac{1}{2}e^{36}, \frac{1}{2}e^{16} - \frac{1}{2}e^{24} - \frac{1}{2}e^{37}, -\frac{1}{2}e^{15} + \frac{1}{2}e^{27} - \frac{1}{2}e^{34}, -\frac{1}{2}e^{14} - \frac{1}{2}e^{26} + \frac{1}{2}e^{35})$ |
| $L_{7,3}^a$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25} - e^{47}, e^{15} - e^{34} - e^{57}, -ae^{67}, 0), \quad a \neq 0$ |
| $L_{7,4}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25} - e^{47}, e^{15} - e^{34} - e^{57}, -e^{45} - 2e^{67}, 0)$ |
| $L_{7,5}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -2e^{14} - 2e^{25} - e^{47}, -e^{26} - e^{34} - e^{57}, 2e^{16} - 2e^{35} - e^{67}, 0)$ |
| $L_{7,6}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -3e^{14} - 3e^{25}, -e^{15} - 2e^{26} - e^{34}, e^{16} - e^{27} - 2e^{35}, 3e^{17} - 3e^{36})$ |
| $L_{7,7}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25}, e^{15} - e^{34}, -e^{16} - e^{27}, e^{17} - e^{36})$ |

TABLE 1. Seven-dimensional irreducible Lie algebras with non-trivial Levi decomposition.

Remark 3.1. It is straightforward to check that the only unimodular Lie algebras appearing in Table 1 are $L_{7,2}$, $L_{7,3}^{-2}$, $L_{7,6}$, and $L_{7,7}$.

In addition to the Lie algebras summarized in Table 1, there exist four non-isomorphic unimodular reducible Lie algebras of dimension seven with non-trivial Levi decomposition. They are given by the product of the unimodular Lie algebras appearing in [27, Table I], namely $L_{5,1}$, $L_{6,1}$, $L_{6,2}$, $L_{6,4}$, and the abelian Lie algebra of suitable dimension. We collect their structure equations in Table 2.

If the Levi decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ is trivial, then either $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 3$ or $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 6$. Indeed, it is known that a semisimple Lie algebra has dimension at least three, and that there are no semisimple Lie algebras of dimension four, five and seven.

Recall that there exist only two non-isomorphic three-dimensional semisimple Lie algebras, namely $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $\mathfrak{so}(3) \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)$. With respect to a suitable basis $\{e^1, e^2, e^3\}$ of their dual algebras, their structure equations are

$$(3.2) \quad \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) = (-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}),$$

$$(3.3) \quad \mathfrak{so}(3) = (-e^{23}, e^{13}, -e^{12}).$$

Up to isomorphism, a semisimple Lie algebra \mathfrak{s} of dimension six is either $\mathfrak{so}(3, 1)$ or a product $\mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{s}' \oplus \mathfrak{s}''$, where the summands \mathfrak{s}' and \mathfrak{s}'' are three-dimensional and semisimple.

| \mathfrak{g} | $(de^1, de^2, de^3, de^4, de^5, de^6, de^7)$ |
|-------------------------------|--|
| $L_{5,1} \oplus \mathbb{R}^2$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25}, e^{15} - e^{34}, 0, 0)$ |
| $L_{6,1} \oplus \mathbb{R}$ | $(-e^{23}, e^{13}, -e^{12}, -e^{26} + e^{35}, e^{16} - e^{34}, -e^{15} + e^{24}, 0)$ |
| $L_{6,2} \oplus \mathbb{R}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{25}, e^{15} - e^{34}, -e^{45}, 0)$ |
| $L_{6,4} \oplus \mathbb{R}$ | $(-e^{23}, -2e^{12}, 2e^{13}, -2e^{14} - 2e^{25}, -e^{26} - e^{34}, 2e^{16} - 2e^{35}, 0)$ |

TABLE 2. Seven-dimensional unimodular reducible Lie algebras with non-trivial Levi decomposition.

4. NON-SOLVABLE LIE ALGEBRAS WITH TRIVIAL LEVI DECOMPOSITION

In this section, we investigate the existence of closed G_2 -structures on seven-dimensional non-solvable Lie algebras with trivial Levi decomposition. As observed in section §3, we have to consider Lie algebras of the form $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, with $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 3$ or $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 6$.

We claim that the case $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 6$ can be excluded using Proposition 2.3 together with a result by Chu [4, Thm. 8]. We recall it in the next theorem, giving an alternative shorter proof.

Theorem 4.1 ([4]). *Any semisimple Lie group has no left-invariant symplectic structure.*

Proof. As we are considering left-invariant symplectic structures on Lie groups, it is sufficient to prove the assertion for semisimple Lie algebras. Let \mathfrak{p} be a semisimple Lie algebra of even dimension, and assume that there exists a symplectic form $\omega \in \Lambda^2(\mathfrak{p}^*)$ on it. Denote by \mathcal{B} the Cartan-Killing form of \mathfrak{p} . Since it is non-degenerate, there exists a \mathcal{B} -skew-symmetric endomorphism $F \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{p})$ such that $\omega(v, w) = \mathcal{B}(Fv, w)$ for all $v, w \in \mathfrak{p}$. The closedness of ω implies that F is a derivation of \mathfrak{p} , i.e., $F[v, w] = [Fv, w] + [v, Fw]$ for all $v, w \in \mathfrak{p}$. As \mathfrak{p} is semisimple, there exists some nonzero $z \in \mathfrak{p}$ such that $F = \text{ad}_z$. Consequently, $\omega(z, v) = 0$ for all $v \in \mathfrak{p}$. This is clearly in contrast with the nondegeneracy of ω . \square

We now show our claim.

Lemma 4.2. *If the Levi decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ is trivial, and $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 6$, then \mathfrak{g} does not admit any closed G_2 -structure.*

Proof. We have $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathbb{R}$. Assume that \mathfrak{g} admits a closed G_2 -structure φ , and let ξ be a generator of the radical $\mathfrak{r} = \mathbb{R}$. Then, the 2-form $\iota_\xi \varphi$ is a symplectic form on \mathfrak{s} by Proposition 2.3. This contradicts Theorem 4.1. \square

Hence, we are left with the case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, with $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 3$ and $\dim(\mathfrak{r}) = 4$. To deal with it, we begin recalling the classification of four-dimensional solvable Lie algebras obtained in [25] (see also [1]).

Theorem 4.3 ([1, 25]). *Let \mathfrak{r} be a four-dimensional solvable Lie algebra. Then, \mathfrak{r} is isomorphic to one and only one of the following:*

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{R}^4 &= (0, 0, 0, 0), \\
\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) &= (0, -e^{12}, 0, -e^{34}), \\
\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{h}_3 &= (0, 0, 0, -e^{23}), \\
\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}_3 &= (0, 0, -e^{23} - e^{24}, -e^{24}), \\
\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}_{3,\lambda} &= (0, 0, -e^{23}, -\lambda e^{24}), \quad |\lambda| \leq 1, \\
\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}'_{3,\lambda} &= (0, 0, -\lambda e^{23} - e^{24}, e^{23} - \lambda e^{24}), \quad \lambda \geq 0, \\
\mathfrak{n}_4 &= (0, 0, -e^{12}, -e^{13}), \\
\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C}) &= (0, 0, -e^{13} + e^{24}, -e^{14} - e^{23}), \\
\mathfrak{r}_4 &= (0, -e^{12} - e^{13}, -e^{13} - e^{14}, -e^{14}), \\
\mathfrak{r}_{4,\lambda} &= (0, -e^{12}, -\lambda e^{13} - e^{14}, -\lambda e^{14}), \\
\mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,\lambda} &= (0, -e^{12}, -\mu e^{13}, -\lambda e^{14}), \quad \lambda\mu \neq 0, \quad -1 < \mu \leq \lambda \leq 1 \text{ or } -1 = \mu \leq \lambda < 0, \\
\mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,\lambda} &= (0, -\mu e^{12}, -\lambda e^{13} - e^{14}, e^{13} - \lambda e^{14}), \quad \mu > 0, \\
\mathfrak{d}_4 &= (0, -e^{12}, e^{13}, -e^{23}), \\
\mathfrak{d}_{4,\lambda} &= (0, -\lambda e^{12}, (\lambda - 1)e^{13}, -e^{14} - e^{23}), \quad \lambda \geq \frac{1}{2}, \\
\mathfrak{d}'_{4,\lambda} &= (0, -\lambda e^{12} - e^{13}, e^{12} - \lambda e^{13}, -2\lambda e^{14} - e^{23}), \quad \lambda \geq 0, \\
\mathfrak{h}_4 &= (0, -e^{12} - e^{13}, -e^{13}, -2e^{14} - e^{23}).
\end{aligned}$$

In the above list, the unimodular Lie algebras are the following: \mathbb{R}^4 , $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{h}_3$, $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}_{3,-1}$, $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}'_{3,0}$, \mathfrak{n}_4 , $\mathfrak{r}_{4,-\frac{1}{2}}$, $\mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,-1-\mu}$ with $-1 < \mu \leq -\frac{1}{2}$, $\mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,-\frac{\mu}{2}}$ with $\mu > 0$, \mathfrak{d}_4 , $\mathfrak{d}'_{4,0}$.

Using the next theorem, we can exclude the existence of closed G_2 -structures on Lie algebras with trivial Levi decomposition and whose radical has non-trivial center.

Theorem 4.4 ([4]). *Suppose that the Lie algebra of a symplectic Lie group H has trivial Levi decomposition. Then, H is solvable.*

More in detail, if φ is a closed G_2 -structure on $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ and $\xi \in \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{r})$ is a nonzero vector in the center of \mathfrak{r} , then $\mathfrak{r}' := \mathfrak{r}/\langle \xi \rangle$ is still solvable and the contraction $\iota_\xi \varphi$ defines a symplectic form on $\mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}'$ by Proposition 2.3. This is clearly not possible unless $\mathfrak{s} = \{0\}$ by Theorem 4.4. Consequently, we have the following.

Lemma 4.5. *Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ with $\dim(\mathfrak{s}) = 3$, and assume that the center $\mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{r})$ of \mathfrak{r} is non-trivial. Then, \mathfrak{g} does not admit any closed G_2 -structure.*

A computation on a case-by-case basis allows to establish which four-dimensional solvable Lie algebras have non-trivial center.

Lemma 4.6. *The four-dimensional solvable Lie algebras with non-trivial center are \mathbb{R}^4 , $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{h}_3$, $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}_3$, $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}_{3,\lambda}$, $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathfrak{r}'_{3,\lambda}$, \mathfrak{n}_4 , $\mathfrak{r}_{4,0}$, \mathfrak{d}_4 , $\mathfrak{d}'_{4,0}$.*

Combining the above lemma with the next result, we get that the case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ never occurs in the main theorem.

Proposition 4.7. *Let $\mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{so}(3)$ and let \mathfrak{r} be a four-dimensional solvable Lie algebra with $\mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{r}) = \{0\}$. Then, the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ does not admit any closed G_2 -structure.*

Proof. Consider the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, where \mathfrak{r} is a four-dimensional solvable Lie algebra with trivial center. Let $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ be the basis of $\mathfrak{so}(3)$ whose dual basis $\{e^1, e^2, e^3\}$ defines the structure equations given in (3.3). Similarly, denote by $\{e^4, e^5, e^6, e^7\}$ the basis of \mathfrak{r}^* for which \mathfrak{r} has the structure equations appearing in Theorem 4.3, and let $\{e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7\}$ be the corresponding basis of \mathfrak{r} . Then, $\{e^1, \dots, e^7\}$ is a basis of \mathfrak{g}^* . The expression of the generic closed 3-form on \mathfrak{g} can be obtained starting with a generic 3-form

$$\phi = \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq 7} \phi_{ijk} e^{ijk} \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*),$$

and solving the linear system in the variables ϕ_{ijk} arising from the equation $d\phi = 0$ (see Appendix A for more details). Once we have computed such a 3-form, we consider the associated bilinear map $b_\phi : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \Lambda^7(\mathfrak{g}^*) \cong \mathbb{R}$, where the isomorphism $\Lambda^7(\mathfrak{g}^*) \cong \mathbb{R}$ is obtained by fixing the volume form $e^{1234567}$. Evaluating b_ϕ on the basis vectors, we immediately see that the obstructions given in Lemma 2.2 hold in the following cases:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) : & \quad b_\phi(e_5, e_5)b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0, \\ \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C}) : & \quad b_\phi(e_6, e_6)b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0, \\ \mathfrak{r}_4 : & \quad b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \\ \mathfrak{r}_{4,\lambda}, \lambda \neq 0 : & \quad b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \lambda \neq -\frac{1}{2}, \\ & \quad b_\phi(e_5, e_5)b_\phi(e_6, e_6) \leq 0, \quad \text{when } \lambda = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ \mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,\lambda} : & \quad b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \lambda + \mu + 1 \neq 0, \\ & \quad b_\phi(e_5, e_5)b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0, \quad \text{when } \lambda = -\mu - 1, \quad -1 < \mu \leq -\frac{1}{2}, \\ \mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,\lambda} : & \quad b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \mu + 2\lambda \neq 0, \\ \mathfrak{d}_{4,\lambda} : & \quad b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0, \\ \mathfrak{d}'_{4,\lambda}, \lambda > 0 : & \quad b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0, \\ \mathfrak{h}_4 : & \quad b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We are left with the case $\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,-\frac{\mu}{2}}$ with $\mu > 0$. Here, since

$$b_\phi(e_5, e_5) = -\mu(\phi_{125}^2 + \phi_{135}^2 + \phi_{235}^2)\phi_{567},$$

we must have $\phi_{567} < 0$. Now, adding $b_\phi(e_6, e_6)$ and $b_\phi(e_7, e_7)$ gives

$$\frac{1}{8}\mu\phi_{567}((\mu\phi_{127} - 2\phi_{347})^2 + (\mu\phi_{137} + 2\phi_{247})^2 + 4\phi_{127}^2 + 4\phi_{137}^2 + 4\phi_{236}^2 + 4\phi_{237}^2).$$

This implies that $b_\phi(e_6, e_6) + b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0$. Hence, $b_\phi(e_6, e_6)b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0$. \square

We now consider Lie algebras with trivial Levi decomposition and semisimple part isomorphic to $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$.

Proposition 4.8. *The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ does not have any closed G_2 -structure when \mathfrak{r} is centerless and non-unimodular.*

Proof. We have to consider Lie algebras of the form $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$, where the radical \mathfrak{r} is one of the following: $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R})$, $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C})$, \mathfrak{r}_4 , $\mathfrak{r}_{4,\lambda}$ with $\lambda \neq 0, -\frac{1}{2}$, $\mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,\lambda}$ with $\lambda + \mu + 1 \neq 0$, $\mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,\lambda}$ with $\mu + 2\lambda \neq 0$, $\mathfrak{d}_{4,\lambda}$, $\mathfrak{d}'_{4,\lambda}$ with $\lambda > 0$, \mathfrak{h}_4 . Fix a basis $\{e^1, \dots, e^7\}$ of \mathfrak{g}^* in a similar way as in the proof of Proposition 4.7, where $\{e^1, e^2, e^3\}$ is the basis of $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})^*$ for which the structure equations are those given in (3.2). Let $\phi \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$ be a generic closed 3-form on \mathfrak{g} , and fix the volume form $e^{1234567}$. Then, evaluating the bilinear form b_ϕ on the basis vectors of \mathfrak{g} , we obtain the following obstructions:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C}) : \quad & b_\phi(e_6, e_6)b_\phi(e_7, e_7) \leq 0, \\ \mathfrak{r}_4 : \quad & b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \\ \mathfrak{r}_{4,\lambda}, \lambda \neq 0 : \quad & b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \lambda \neq -\frac{1}{2}, \\ \mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,\lambda} : \quad & b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \lambda + \mu + 1 \neq 0, \\ \mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,\lambda} : \quad & b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0, \quad i = 5, 6, 7, \quad \text{when } \mu + 2\lambda \neq 0, \\ \mathfrak{d}_{4,\lambda} : \quad & b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0, \\ \mathfrak{d}'_{4,\lambda}, \lambda > 0 : \quad & b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0, \\ \mathfrak{h}_4 : \quad & b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We still have to examine the case $\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R})$. Here, we focus on the restriction of b_ϕ to the subspace of \mathfrak{g} spanned by e_6 and e_7 . The 2×2 symmetric matrix associated with this bilinear form has non-positive determinant. Hence, denoted by λ_1, λ_2 its real eigenvalues, either at least one of them is zero or $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 < 0$. In the first case, the eigenvector v corresponding to the eigenvalue 0 satisfies $b_\phi(v, v) = 0$. Otherwise, if w_1 is an eigenvector with positive eigenvalue and w_2 is an eigenvector with negative eigenvalue, we have $b_\phi(w_1, w_1) > 0$ and $b_\phi(w_2, w_2) < 0$. \square

Remark 4.9. The obstructions to the existence of closed G_2 -structures in the proofs of Proposition 4.7 and Proposition 4.8 always involve some basis vectors of the radical \mathfrak{r} . In particular, for all non-unimodular centerless Lie algebras but $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C})$, we always have $b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0$. The reason is the following. By [1], in all of the mentioned cases \mathfrak{r} can be written as a semidirect product $\mathfrak{r} = \mathbb{R} \oplus_\rho \mathfrak{u}$, where \mathfrak{u} is either \mathbb{R}^3 or the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra \mathfrak{h}_3 . We can then consider a basis $\{e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7\}$ of \mathfrak{r} in such a way that $\mathbb{R} = \langle e_4 \rangle$ and $[e_5, e_7] = 0 = [e_6, e_7]$. Consequently, $d\phi = 0$ gives $\phi_{i57} = 0, \phi_{i67} = 0$, for $i = 1, 2, 3$, and $\phi_{567} = d\phi(e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7) = 0$. These conditions imply that $b_\phi(e_7, e_7) = 0$.

The remaining cases do not follow this pattern. In particular, $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R} \oplus_\rho \mathfrak{e}(1, 1)$, for a suitable derivation $\rho(e_4)$ of the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{e}(1, 1)$ of the group of rigid motions of the Minkowski 2-space, while $\mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{R} \oplus_\rho \mathfrak{e}(2)$, for a suitable derivation $\rho(e_4)$ of the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{e}(2)$ of the group of rigid motions of Euclidean 2-space. Finally, $d\phi(e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7)$ is identically zero when \mathfrak{r} is unimodular, thus ϕ_{567} need not to vanish in that case.

Proposition 4.10. *The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$ admits closed G_2 -structures when \mathfrak{r} is unimodular and centerless.*

Proof. By Theorem 4.3 and Lemma 4.6, \mathfrak{r} must be one of the following: $\mathfrak{r}_{4, -\frac{1}{2}}$, $\mathfrak{r}_{4, \mu, -1-\mu}$ with $-1 < \mu \leq -\frac{1}{2}$, $\mathfrak{r}'_{4, \mu, -\frac{\mu}{2}}$ with $\mu > 0$. To show the assertion, it is sufficient to give the expression of a closed G_2 -structure φ for each case. For the sake of clarity, we also write the matrix associated with the bilinear form b_φ with respect to the basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_7\}$ of $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{r}$. The inner product and the volume form induced by φ are given by $g_\varphi = \det(b_\varphi)^{-\frac{1}{9}} b_\varphi$ and $\det(b_\varphi)^{\frac{1}{9}} e^{1234567}$, respectively.

• **radical $\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{r}_{4, -\frac{1}{2}}$:**

$$\varphi = -e^{147} + 2e^{236} + 2e^{237} + e^{245} + e^{247} - 2e^{125} + 4e^{127} - 2e^{135} - 4e^{137} + e^{146} + e^{347} - e^{345} + e^{567},$$

$$b_\varphi = \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 12 & -4 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & -4 & 12 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

• **radical $\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{r}_{4, \mu, -1-\mu}$, $-1 < \mu \leq -\frac{1}{2}$:**

$$\varphi = e^{236} + e^{245} + \frac{1}{2}(\mu+1)e^{247} + e^{567} + \frac{1}{2}(\mu+1)e^{347} - 2e^{125} + e^{127} - 2e^{135} - e^{137} - \mu e^{146} - e^{345},$$

$$b_\varphi = \begin{pmatrix} -4\mu & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu+2 & \mu & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & \mu+2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\mu^2 - \mu & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\mu & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1+\mu \end{pmatrix}.$$

• **radical $\mathfrak{r} = \mathfrak{r}'_{4, \mu, -\frac{\mu}{2}}$, $\mu > 0$:**

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi = e^{567} - e^{346} - \frac{\mu}{2}e^{347} + \frac{\mu}{2}e^{345} - \frac{1}{2}e^{246} - \frac{\mu}{4}e^{247} - \frac{\mu}{4}e^{245} + \sqrt{2}e^{236} - \sqrt{2}e^{147} + 2e^{137} \\ + \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}}e^{146} + e^{135} + \frac{1}{2}e^{125} - e^{127}, \end{aligned}$$

$$b_\varphi = \mu \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{8} & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} & \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2} & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & -1 & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8}\mu^2 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

As every connected Lie group admitting a left-invariant Ricci-flat metric is solvable (cf. [23, Thm. 1.6]), we can conclude that the closed G_2 -structures described above are not co-closed. \square

Remark 4.11. From the results of [2, 16], we know that the simply connected solvable Lie groups with Lie algebras $\mathfrak{r}_{4,\mu,-1-\mu}$ and $\mathfrak{r}'_{4,\mu,-\frac{\mu}{2}}$ admit a lattice for certain values of the parameter μ . Moreover, the Lie group $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ admits a lattice, too (see for instance [24]). Hence, Proposition 4.10 allows to obtain new examples of locally homogeneous compact 7-manifolds endowed with a closed G_2 -structure.

5. UNIMODULAR LIE ALGEBRAS WITH NON-TRIVIAL LEVI DECOMPOSITION

In this last section, we focus on seven-dimensional unimodular Lie algebras with non-trivial Levi decomposition. According to the discussion in section §3, up to isomorphism they are the Lie algebras $L_{7,2}$, $L_{7,3}^-$, $L_{7,6}$, $L_{7,7}$ of Table 1 (cf. Remark 3.1), and the Lie algebras of Table 2.

Proposition 5.1. *The unimodular Lie algebras $L_{7,2}$, $L_{7,6}$, and $L_{7,7}$ do not admit closed G_2 -structures.*

Proof. Let us consider the structure equations of $L_{7,2}$, $L_{7,6}$ and $L_{7,7}$ given in Table 1. As in the proof of Proposition 4.7, we first compute the expression of the generic closed 3-form ϕ , and we fix the volume form $e^{1234567}$. A straightforward computation shows that for both $L_{7,2}$ and $L_{7,7}$ it holds $b_\phi(e_i, e_i) = 0$ for $i = 4, 5, 6, 7$.

To show our assertion for $L_{7,6}$, we prove that the restriction of the bilinear form b_ϕ to the radical $\mathfrak{r} = \langle e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7 \rangle$ is neither positive nor negative definite. We assume that $b_\phi(e_i, e_i) \neq 0$, $i = 1, \dots, 7$, otherwise we would get a contradiction by Lemma 2.2. Now, the matrix B associated with $b_\phi|_{\mathfrak{r} \times \mathfrak{r}}$ with respect to the basis $\{e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7\}$ has the following expression

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\ b_2 & 3b_3 & 9b_4 & \frac{4b_4b_2-b_3^2}{b_1} \\ b_3 & 9b_4 & 3\frac{4b_4b_2-b_3^2}{b_1} & -\frac{2b_1b_3b_4-4b_5^2b_4+b_3^2b_2}{b_1^2} \\ b_4 & \frac{4b_4b_2-b_3^2}{b_1} & -\frac{2b_1b_3b_4-4b_5^2b_4+b_3^2b_2}{b_1^2} & -\frac{8b_1b_4^2-4b_2b_3b_4+b_3^3}{b_1^2} \end{pmatrix},$$

where the b_i are homogeneous polynomials of degree 3 in the variables $\phi_{246}, \phi_{247}, \phi_{346}, \phi_{347}, \phi_{357}$. The determinant of B is non-negative:

$$\det(B) = \frac{1}{b_1^4} (27 b_1^2 b_4^2 - 18 b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 + 4 b_1 b_3^3 + 4 b_2^3 b_4 - b_2^2 b_3^2)^2.$$

Hence, if B is non-singular, its possible signatures are $(4, 0)$, $(0, 4)$, or $(2, 2)$. We show that only the last case occurs.

Let us begin considering $b_1 > 0$. Then, B cannot be negative definite, and all its diagonal entries must be positive. Thus, we have the inequalities

$$(5.1) \quad b_3 > 0,$$

$$(5.2) \quad 4 b_4 b_2 - b_3^2 > 0,$$

together with $8 b_1 b_4^2 - 4 b_2 b_3 b_4 + b_3^3 < 0$. By Sylvester's criterion, the matrix B is positive definite if and only if its leading principal minors are positive. This gives the following further conditions

$$(5.3) \quad 3 b_1 b_3 - b_2^2 > 0,$$

$$(5.4) \quad 27 b_1^2 b_4^2 - 18 b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 + 4 b_1 b_3^3 + 4 b_2^3 b_4 - b_2^2 b_3^2 < 0.$$

Assume that $b_1 > 0$ and $b_3 > 0$ are given. Equation (5.2) implies $b_2 b_4 > 0$, while equation (5.3) gives $-\sqrt{3 b_1 b_3} < b_2 < \sqrt{3 b_1 b_3}$. Under these constraints on b_1, b_2 and b_3 , (5.4) becomes a quadratic inequality in the variable b_4 . Since its discriminant is $-16(3 b_1 b_3 - b_2^2)^3$, it does not admit real solutions. Hence, the signature of B is $(2, 2)$.

When $b_1 < 0$, a similar argument leads to the same result. Moreover, if we fix the volume form $-e^{1234567}$ instead of $e^{1234567}$, then the signature of B does not change. This completes the proof. \square

Proposition 5.2. *The unimodular Lie algebra $L_{7,3}^{-2}$ admits closed G_2 -structures.*

Proof. A closed G_2 -structure is given for instance by the stable 3-form

$$\varphi = e^{157} - e^{235} - e^{267} - 3e^{124} - e^{126} + e^{134} - e^{136} - e^{456} + e^{367} + e^{247}.$$

The matrix associated with the corresponding bilinear form b_φ with respect to the basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_7\}$ of $L_{7,3}^{-2}$ and the volume form $e^{1234567}$ is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 4 & -\frac{3}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

As $L_{7,3}^{-2}$ is not solvable, φ is closed but not co-closed (cf. [23, Thm. 1.6]). \square

Notice that all of the Lie algebras appearing in Table 2 have non-trivial center. Hence, they cannot admit left-invariant closed G_2 -structures by Proposition 2.3 and the following result.

Theorem 5.3 ([4, 21]). *A unimodular Lie algebra admitting a symplectic structure is solvable.*

Acknowledgements. The authors would like to thank Fabio Podestà for useful conversations, and the two anonymous referees for their valuable comments. This work was done when A. R. was a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science “U. Dini” of the Università degli Studi di Firenze.

APPENDIX A.

In this appendix, we give some details on the computations we did to prove propositions 4.7, 4.8, 4.10, 5.1, 5.2. We focus on the case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R})$, as in the remaining cases one can proceed similarly.

Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_7\}$ be the basis of $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R}) \oplus \mathfrak{aff}(\mathbb{R})$ described in the proof of Proposition 4.7. Then, the structure equations of \mathfrak{g} with respect to the dual basis $\{e^1, \dots, e^7\}$ are the following:

$$(-e^{23}, e^{13}, -e^{12}, 0, -e^{45}, 0, -e^{67}).$$

Let us consider a generic 3-form $\phi = \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq 7} \phi_{ijk} e^{ijk} \in \Lambda^3(\mathfrak{g}^*)$, where $\phi_{ijk} \in \mathbb{R}$. The condition $d\phi = 0$ is equivalent to the following system of linear equations in the variables $\{\phi_{ijk}\}$:

$$\begin{cases} \phi_{i46} = 0, \phi_{i47} = 0, \phi_{i56} = 0, \phi_{i57} = 0, & i = 1, 2, 3, \\ \phi_{125} + \phi_{345} = 0, \phi_{127} + \phi_{367} = 0, \\ \phi_{135} - \phi_{245} = 0, \phi_{137} - \phi_{267} = 0, \\ \phi_{145} + \phi_{235} = 0, \phi_{237} + \phi_{167} = 0, \\ \phi_{567} + \phi_{457} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Solving this system, we obtain the following expression for the generic closed 3-form ϕ on \mathfrak{g}

$$\begin{aligned} \phi = & \phi_{123}e^{123} + \phi_{124}e^{124} - \phi_{345}e^{125} + \phi_{126}e^{126} - \phi_{367}e^{127} + \phi_{134}e^{134} + \phi_{245}e^{135} \\ & + \phi_{136}e^{136} + \phi_{267}e^{137} - \phi_{235}e^{145} - \phi_{237}e^{167} + \phi_{234}e^{234} + \phi_{235}e^{235} + \phi_{236}e^{236} \\ & + \phi_{237}e^{237} + \phi_{245}e^{245} + \phi_{267}e^{267} + \phi_{345}e^{345} + \phi_{367}e^{367} + \phi_{456}e^{456} - \phi_{567}e^{457} \\ & + \phi_{467}e^{467} + \phi_{567}e^{567}. \end{aligned}$$

Using this, we compute $\iota_{e_i}\phi$, $i = 1, \dots, 7$, and we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} b_\phi(e_5, e_5) &= -\phi_{567} (\phi_{235}^2 + \phi_{245}^2 + \phi_{345}^2) e^{1234567}, \\ b_\phi(e_7, e_7) &= \phi_{567} (\phi_{237}^2 + \phi_{267}^2 + \phi_{367}^2) e^{1234567}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that b_ϕ cannot be definite.

REFERENCES

- [1] A. Andrada, M. L. Barberis, I. G. Dotti, and G. P. Ovando. Product structures on four dimensional solvable Lie algebras. *Homology Homotopy Appl.*, **7**(1), 9–37, 2005.
- [2] C. Bock. On low-dimensional solvmanifolds. *Asian J. Math.*, **20**(2), 199–262, 2016.
- [3] R. L. Bryant. Some remarks on G_2 -structures. In *Proceedings of Gökova Geometry-Topology Conference 2005*, pages 75–109. Gökova Geometry/Topology Conference (GGT), Gökova, 2006.
- [4] B. Y. Chu. Symplectic homogeneous spaces. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **197**, 145–159, 1974.
- [5] R. Cleyton and A. Swann. Cohomogeneity-one G_2 -structures. *J. Geom. Phys.*, **44**(2-3), 202–220, 2002.
- [6] D. Conti and M. Fernández. Nilmanifolds with a calibrated G_2 -structure. *Differential Geom. Appl.*, **29**(4), 493–506, 2011.
- [7] V. Cortés, T. Leistner, L. Schäfer, and F. Schulte-Hengesbach. Half-flat structures and special holonomy. *Proc. Lond. Math. Soc. (3)*, **102**(1), 113–158, 2011.
- [8] D. Crowley and J. Nordström. New invariants of G_2 -structures. *Geom. Topol.*, **19**(5), 2949–2992, 2015.
- [9] M. Fernández. An example of a compact calibrated manifold associated with the exceptional Lie group G_2 . *J. Differential Geom.*, **26**(2), 367–370, 1987.
- [10] M. Fernández. A family of compact solvable G_2 -calibrated manifolds. *Tohoku Math. J. (2)*, **39**(2), 287–289, 1987.
- [11] M. Fernández, A. Fino, and V. Manero. Laplacian flow of closed G_2 -structures inducing nilsolitons. *J. Geom. Anal.*, **26**(3), 1808–1837, 2016.
- [12] M. Fernández and A. Gray. Riemannian manifolds with structure group G_2 . *Ann. Mat. Pura Appl. (4)*, **132**, 19–45, 1982.
- [13] A. Fino and A. Raffero. Closed warped G_2 -structures evolving under the Laplacian flow. *Ann. Scuola Norm. Sup. Pisa Cl. Sci.*, to appear. doi: 10.2422/2036-2145.201709_004.
- [14] M. Freibert. Calibrated and parallel structures on almost Abelian Lie algebras. arXiv:1307.2542.
- [15] A. Gray. Vector cross products on manifolds. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **141**, 465–504, 1969.
- [16] K. Hasegawa. Four-dimensional compact solvmanifolds with and without complex analytic structures. arXiv:0401413v1.
- [17] N. Hitchin. Stable forms and special metrics. In *Global differential geometry: the mathematical legacy of Alfred Gray (Bilbao, 2000)*, v. 288 of *Contemp. Math.*, pp. 70–89. Amer. Math. Soc., 2001.
- [18] A. W. Knap. *Lie groups beyond an introduction*, volume 140 of *Progress in Mathematics*. Birkhäuser Boston, Inc., Boston, MA, second edition, 2002.
- [19] J. Lauret. Laplacian flow of homogeneous G_2 -structures and its solitons. *Proc. Lond. Math. Soc. (3)*, **114**(3), 527–560, 2017.
- [20] J. Lauret. Laplacian solitons: questions and homogeneous examples. *Differential Geom. Appl.*, **54**(B), 345–360, 2017.
- [21] A. Lichnerowicz and A. Medina. On Lie groups with left-invariant symplectic or Kählerian structures. *Lett. Math. Phys.*, **16**(3), 225–235, 1988.
- [22] J. D. Lotay and Y. Wei. Laplacian flow for closed G_2 structures: Shi-type estimates, uniqueness and compactness. *Geom. Funct. Anal.*, **27**(1), 165–233, 2017.
- [23] J. Milnor. Curvatures of left invariant metrics on Lie groups. *Advances in Math.*, **21**(3), 293–329, 1976.
- [24] G. D. Mostow. Discrete subgroups of Lie groups. *Advances in Math.*, **16**, 112–123, 1975.
- [25] G. M. Mubarakzjanov. On solvable Lie algebras. *Izv. Vysš. Učeh. Zaved. Mat.*, **32**(1), 114–123, 1963.
- [26] F. Podestà and A. Raffero. On the automorphism group of a closed G_2 -structure. *Q. J. Math.*, to appear. doi: 10.1093/qmath/hay045.
- [27] P. Turkowski. Low-dimensional real Lie algebras. *J. Math. Phys.*, **29**(10), 2139–2144, 1988.

DIPARTIMENTO DI MATEMATICA “G. PEANO”, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO, VIA CARLO ALBERTO 10, 10123 TORINO, ITALY

E-mail address: annamaria.fino@unito.it, alberto.raffero@unito.it